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# Pope's Assailant Testifies About Letter on C.I.A.

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ROME, Aug. 5 — The trial of eight men accused of conspiring to assassinate Pope John Paul II reconvened today in a special session at which the Pope's assailant, Mehmet Ali Agca, was questioned about a letter he wrote that appeared intended to implicate the United States in a kidnapping.

Court officials said they had intercepted a letter that Mr. Ali Agca wrote to an Italian admiral designed to connect the the American Government with a kidnapping and force it to obtain Mr. Agca's release from prison.

The letter, evidently mailed by Mr. Agca late last month, seeks to implicate the Central Intelligence Agency in the 1983 abduction of Emanuela Orlandi, the daughter of a Vatican employee. The kidnappers, claiming to be Turkish Gray Wolves, a right-wing extremist group, have said she would be freed in exchange for Mr. Agca's release.

Mr. Agca, wearing a sky blue suit, was questioned about the letter and its relation to the Orlandi kidnapping at the special session of the trial here of three Bulgarians and five Turks, including Mr. Agca, who are accused of conspiring to kill the Pope in 1981.

The trial, which began May 27, adjourned last month until September for summer recess. But it reconvened today to discuss plans to question several Turkish witnesses. On Tuesday, the court will confront Mr. Agca with Sedat Sirri Kadem, a Turk whom Mr. Agca has accused of being with him in St. Peter's square the day of the shooting. Mr. Kadem, who has denied any involvement, volunteered to come to Rome from Turkey to testify.

## 'Simple Blackmail'

Mr. Agca, under intense questioning today by Chief Judge Severino Santiapichi, said the C.I.A. had nothing to do with the kidnapping or the plot to kill the Pope. The letter, he said, was designed to "obtain help from the C.I.A., because in the C.I.A. there are men who believe in God."

The technique was typical of Mr. Agca's efforts to obtain early release from prison. In 1981, a court in Rome sentenced him to life imprisonment for shooting the Pope.

In June, Mr. Agca admitted that letters he wrote to officials at the United States Embassy in Rome involved "simple blackmail" in an effort to force the United States to obtain his release through a pardon or some other means.

Such statements have played into the hands of the trial's critics, some of whom say Mr. Agca was coached by Western intelligence agencies to implicate the Soviet bloc.

Mr. Agca has denied having any contacts with American officials.

Waving the letter, to a woman identified only as Enrica, Judge Santiapichi, who presides over the panel of an assistant judge and six jurors, said today that it contained news clippings, including one from a weekly magazine Famiglia Cristiana. The clippings say intelligence services played a "determining role" in Miss Orlandi's abduction.

## 'Dearest Friends'

"Everything points to people with a professional interest in creating tensions," one clipping said.

In the margin, Mr. Agca had penciled, "C.I.A.!"

In an accompanying letter, addressed to "Dearest Friends," Mr. Agca wrote that he hoped "with my friends in the C.I.A." to be transferred "from Rome to some other destination."

"Ali Agca," Judge Santiapichi said, "do you believe the Italian state, we judges, can release you from prison?"

"Not immediately," Mr. Agca replied, "but after the conclusion of the case, after the unconditional release of the girl."

Judge Santiapichi said the letter was discovered among Mr. Agca's correspondence with people who have taken an interest in his case and write to him regularly. Mr. Agca said he expected the letter would be discovered and would find its way into the press.

Asked about the reference to friends, Mr. Agca replied: "Friends in the sense of no one in particular. I was hoping for some legal help."

"From whom?" the judge asked.

"I hoped from the Americans," Mr. Agca replied.